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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

Applicant : Michael D. Erlanger  
Application No. : 09/370,619  
Filed : August 7, 1999 (CPA Filed Herewith)  
For : A DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM FOR PROVIDING AN  
EFFICIENT MARKET FOR LOANS AND LINES OF CREDIT  
Group Art Unit : 2164  
Examiner : Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E.

New York, New York  
September 23, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, applicant requests that the amendments indicated below be entered in the application:

In the Claims

✓ /  
Please cancel claims 1-38 and 140-157 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 40, 66, 69, 78, 94, and 98 to recite:

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GROUP 3600

40. (Amended) A method for performance by a provider of intermediation services, comprising the steps of:

β<sup>1</sup> in a market for a class of financial products in which transactions for products of the class occur among market participants in distinct first and second sectors, the first and second sectors being origination and secondary trading of products of the class, providing intermediation services for transactions in each of the two sectors;

a predetermined pricing schedule for the intermediation services providing credits for transaction fees paid by a party for intermediation of transactions in the first sector for